

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4944

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E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.), RP

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

REF: STATE 106151

1. I PERSONALLY MET APRIL 26/27 WITH CARDINAL SIN, FATHER REUTER, S.P. LOPEZ, MACAPAGAL, SALONGA AND ROXAS. ALL AGREE TO REFTEL ARRANGEMENTS EXCEPT SIN (SEPTTEL) AND SALONGA WHO DEFINITELY INTERESTED BUT FEELS HE MUST CLEAR WITH ASSOCIATES AND WHLL ADVISE. FATHER REUTER IS CONTACTING SISTER DABALUS AND BISHOP LABAYAN AND WILL CONFIRM. CARE HAS BEEN TAKEN TO DEVELOP RATIONALE OF LARGER MEETING AS VICE PRESIDENTIAL RESPONSE TO EVIDENT INTEREST OF VARIOUS PHILIPPINE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS TO SHARE VIEWS GENERALLY IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD. THIS EXPLANATION SEEMS TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THOSE IMMEDIATELY CONCERNED ALTHOUGH SALONGA, AND TO LESSER EXTENT ROXAS, APPEAR TO BE SENSITIVE TO PRESIDENT MARCOS' ALLEGATIONS THAT OPPOSITION IS BEHOLDEN TO UNCLE SAM. CONFIDENTIALITY OF OUR EXCHANGE WAS STRESSED IN EACH CASE.

2. REUTER WAS VERY POSITIVE ABOUT HIS OWN PRIVATE MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT AND OFFERED TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE LARGER GROUP MEETING OF SISTER DABALUS

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AND BISHOP LABAYAN.

3. ROXAS, A CAUTIOUS, CIRCUMSPECT MAN, ASKED IF THE VENUE OF THE MEETING COULD BE CHANGED TO MITIGATE ANY APPEARANCE OF PAYING COURT TO AMERICANS, BUT READILY AGREED TO PARTICIPATE WHEN ADVISED THAT PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS PRECLUDED SUCH RESCHEDULING.

4. S. P. LOPEZ NOTED THAT GOP IS VERY SENSITIVE THESE DAYS, BUT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT PARTICIPATION IN A MEETING WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT ENTAILED A SIGNIFICANT RISK FOR THE PHILIPPINE PARTICIPANTS. IN ANY EVENT, HE SAID, WHATEVER RISK THERE MAY BE SHOULD BE TAKEN FOR SUCH A GOOD PURPOSE.

5. SALONGA ALSO WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE VENUE GIVEN AS HE PUT IT PRESIDENT MARCOS' ALLEGATIONS DURING ELECTIONS THAT OPPOSITION FIGURES ARE "RUNNING DOGS OF UNCLE SAM." SALKNGA NOTED THAT HE IS A MEMBER OF SEVERAL GROUPS INCLUDING ONE THAT ONLY YESTERDAY HAD DISCUSSED A POSSIBLE APPROACH TO THE VICE PRESIDENT AND HAD DECIDED THAT ANY MEETING WITH HIM SHOULD BE ON INTERMEDIATE TURF. ACCORDINGLY, SALONGA WISHED TO CHECK WITH THAT GROUP CONCERNING MEETING AT VICE PRESIDENT'S HOTEL. SALONGA VOLUNTEERED THAT WE GIVE BISHOP CLAVER PRECEDENCE "FOR EXAMPLE OVER CARDINAL SIN. YOU MIGHT AS WELL GO TO THE PALACE." (I DID NOT CONFIRM). HE ALSO URGED THAT WE INCLUDE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MORE MILITANT OPPOSITION. WITH SALONGA I MOST ESPECIALLY AND CAREFULLY DEVELOPED THE RATIONAL OF VICE PRESIDENTIAL RESPONSE TO EVIDENT INTEREST AMONG PHILIPPINE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS. HE SEEMED TO ACCEPT THIS EXPLANATION FOR HIS OWN PART, BUT WE ASSUME IT WILL BE SUBJECT TO CLOSER SCRUTINY AMONG HIS COLLEAGUES.

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6. MACAPAGAL WAS UNRESERVEDLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE MEETING. STULL

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Message Attributes

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